

# **Burrillville**

## **Recreation Commission**

**RE: Minutes, May 11, 2009**

**Present: Cheri Hall, Director   Al Low**

**Al Gerew, Vice Chair   Juliette Lopez-Recinos**

**Alice Lavigne, Secretary**

**Absent: L. Kevin McDonald**

**Excused: Kurt Schatz, Chair and David Marcotte**

**Guests: League representatives Ray Daignault of Burrillville Youth Football and Cheer; Roy Carlson of Burrillville Youth Basketball; Sharon Wilkinson and Robert Bray of Burrillville Junior Hockey League; Lillian Jerome, Al Shuman and Janice Kaplan, President of the Burrillville Figure Skating Association, Morris Merchant, and Chris Lacey, Director of the Levy Community Rink.**

**Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Al Gerew, Vice Chair, at the Burrillville Parks and Recreation Offices, 92 North Main Street, Pascoag, R.I.**

**Motion to accept minutes of April 13, 2009 regular meeting by Alice**

**Lavigne. Seconded by Al Low. Motion passed 4-0.**

**Correspondence:**

**None**

**Good & Welfare:**

**Al Low commented that Family Fair was a great success. Alice Lavigne stated a picture of the fair was in today's newspaper.**

**Old Business:**

**2009-2010 Budgets/League**

**Al Gerew announced that Director Cheri Hall had sent a correspondence to the leagues to be present if they could tonight to discuss the 2009-2010 budgets and league funding that is given through the Parks and Recreation Department. The Director stated that roughly a month ago the Budget Board recommended cutting all funding for leagues for 2009-2010. Concerns were voiced to the Town Manger and a meeting was held between two of the representatives from the commission, Town Manager Mike Wood, Finance Director John Mainville and the Director.**

**A survey of other communities regarding league funding was completed with nine communities responding. Surprisingly many responding communities do not support their leagues financially and the ones that do are going to be cutting their funding. In the meeting, concern that Burrillville being a small community and being hard**

economic times, it would affect each league more than a larger community with more support from more participants. By cutting the Burrillville league funding would be detrimental and with some leagues not able to even carry on. Consequently, the Town Manager did put funding the league budgets back in his recommended budget request however not sure what the council will do. A small cut was recommended for the extra \$2,000 amount allotted to assist leagues if necessary and the beach bus. The Town Manager did ask the commission to meet with the leagues to look at different options to phasing out the support to the town leagues. A possibility would be to decrease the amounts allotted to each league by a percentage each upcoming year. The leagues were encouraged to attend the public hearing to voice concerns to the council.

The Director reviewed the amounts and how the funding is given by other communities to their leagues. Lincoln gives \$4,000 to Little League and Softball for maintenance, lining and lights. Newport gives civic support and has remained the same however the City Mayor has recommended zeroing out all civic support and light usage fees have been implemented with Little League at \$6,200 and Youth Football at \$2,100. Warwick's civic support is for twenty-five groups totaling \$81,000 with all support cut in January to appropriations of \$3,400 for baseball, \$4,400 girls softball, \$7,600 football and cheerleading, two soccer leagues at \$3,600 each, hockey \$4,700, and figure skating \$4,700. The Town Manager questioned the dollar amounts of Burrillville's support of up to \$13,000 etc. to our leagues. Westerly

just reduced their support by twenty-five percent of their total league support of \$12,000 including little league, football, girls basketball and soccer compared to Burrillville's total league support of \$31,000. Westerly is looking to phase out league support and begin charging for field use due to future budget cuts. This year South Kingstown has cut all league funding but in turn they continue to maintain all fields, lining etc. Coventry cut ten percent league support and only supported \$8 per resident participating in youth sports to be cut to \$4 per participating resident. Burrillville has been supporting \$20 per resident participating in youth sports but Burrillville is a much smaller community. Pawtucket supports each league \$300 at the end of each season. Bristol cut league contributions in half to \$20,000 and privatized all field maintenance. East Greenwich does not provide monetary support. This is the direction that is happening across the state.

Al Gerew commented that during the discussion with the Town Manager Mike Wood requested the league budget information to see what certain leagues were doing for fundraisers. The Town Manager currently requested what leagues have not received their funding to date. The Director provided that basketball has \$666 and little league/softball which will wait for payment until after July 1st due to the \$770,000 shortfall for the current fiscal year town budget. Al Low stated some leagues did receive their monies since last July but others who did not are being held due to the spending freeze. The budget board has also recommended that all stipends to boards and

commissions be eliminated including the town council and school committee. All travel and town conference monies have been cut. Every board in the town was to make recommendations regarding budget cuts but the Town Manager cannot guarantee the commission's recommended to not cut league funding for this year due to the council's final decision. Al Low stated that funding for the Easter Egg Hunt and Family Fair was originally frozen but then people called the town to show support, these events took place with support from the Parks & Recreation fundraising account versus the town budget.

Janice Kaplan of Burrillville Figure Skating questioned when the next Town Council meeting will be held. The Director stated it is next Wednesday night. The budget will be adopted by June 15th with an e-mail tomorrow to be sent to the leagues regarding the Public Hearing date. Lillian Jerome of Burrillville Figure Skating stated if funding is cut, figure skating will have to discontinue in Burrillville due to the high ice rink costs. The Director stated this information has already been shared with the Town Manager the hardship of at least two league programs. Rink Director Chris Lacey stated that cuts are coming to the rink also. He is at this meeting tonight to find out if he has to go out and solicit other programs to fill the ice time to meet expenses. Currently \$32,000 is budgeted to be divided between the five leagues. The commission will discuss if they need to adjust the formula or just support a change of the amount per participating child from the currently \$20. The \$32,000 is not guaranteed at this time. A review of the history of supporting the sports teams was

discussed.

Juliette Lopez-Recinos questioned how the league budget decisions are made and asked what the Finance Director John Mainville stated regarding the league budget funding. The Director stated he recommended cutting funding since the town does not support other organizations like the sports leagues have been supported. It was questioned if youth soccer was supported by the town. The Director stated they have never requested funding since they are a combination of two towns. Soccer did utilize the town's facilities but now have their own complex. Al Low stated the first budget request was to cut the funds in half by the budget board but then realized the funding included all the department's recreation programs in the \$41,000 total. Another reason for the cuts is that all taxpayer funds go to support this funding but not all taxpayers utilize these leagues.

Chris Lacey stated that if the junior hockey league wants to run a tournament during school vacation or a skate-athon by figure skating to raise funds, he will assist them since he believes funding is going to be cut by fifty percent which would give \$16,000 to split between the leagues. Janice Kaplan questioned when the league allocation will be available. The Director stated the commission will come up with different scenarios for allotment as soon as possible.

Ray Daignault of Burrillville Football stated he has 163 participants (158 Burrillville residents)

registered to date with an eighty-five dollar registration fee and has

given payment plans to those who have requested it. Ray Daignault stated fundraising is difficult in this current economic climate in the private sector. The rink turned around \$95,000 last year to pull the rink out of a deficit and enabled payback of the town loan of \$47,000 by July 1st. The rink is two, three years away from reaching the rink's goal. Rink Director Chris Lacey stated he cannot wait until June 15th to sell the ice time by turning customers away. The Director again encouraged the leagues to attend the public hearing as well as the commission members. Ray Daignault commented that if league budgets are cut then consideration should be taken to possibly not charge for town field usage. Discussion regarding fundraising ideas and payment plans were shared by the league representatives in attendance.

#### **Pedestrian/Bike Path**

Minutes from the Public Hearing will be available at the next meeting.

#### **Family Fair**

Mentioned under Good and Welfare above

#### **Spring Lake Beach Painting Bid**

Request for proposals (RFP's) will go out again with proper specs sometime in July or August for painting in the fall.

#### **Summer Concerts**

Concert flyers were given to the Recreation members.

## **Recreation Vehicle**

**Alice Lavigne questioned why the town wants to take funding for a new vehicle for the department from other side funds versus the regular budget. Juliette Lopez-Recinos questioned how the Town Manager came up with the idea of funding a vehicle from the other two sources. The Director stated the Town Manager asked if B.E.C. could support funding a vehicle versus the assisting the league funding and how much money in Spring Lake could be utilized. Al Gerew stated he would like to table until the full commission is in attendance with a recommendation being forwarded to the council. Juliette Lopez stated the Burrillville Extended Care Board of Directors will be meeting in two weeks where this same vehicle expenditure will be discussed. Al Low questioned what Spring Lake and Burrillville Extended funds are utilized for. The Director stated Spring Lake funds are utilized to maintain Spring Lake Beach such as the \$30,000 for upcoming painting, and Burrillville Extended Care funds are retained for unforeseen expenditures such as self insurance claims, or the potential for a new building to house the program if necessary.**

**The new vehicle would be registered under the Parks & Recreation Department with town insurance coverage.**

**Motion to support the cost of purchasing a new department vehicle to not exceed \$25,000 with half the cost to be appropriated from Spring Lake Beach funds was made by Alice Lavigne. Seconded by Juliette Lopez-Recinos. Motion passed 4-0.**



**New Business:**

**Tennis Grant**

**The Director is in the process of working on a tennis court grant.**

**Meeting Adjourned: Motion made Juliette Lopez-Recinos. Seconded by Al Low.**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. Motion Passed 4-0.**

**Next Meeting: Monday, June 8, 2009 at 6:30 p.m., Burrillville Parks & Recreation Offices, 92 North Main Street, Pascoag, RI 02859.**

**Recorded by**

**Carol L. Conway**

**Administrative Aide**

**Burrillville Parks & Recreation Department**

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